



"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

Living Waters Contemplative Life Center | Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless
Tippecanoe just.good.food Garden | Food Justice Site PCUSA
Arts and Science Literacy Camps for Children

Welcome To Worship

May 5, 2024

9:30 a.m.



Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.

"Love: Repentance and Attention" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude:** *God of Love* ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **Welcome**

Community News

- May 15 First Summer Supper Service at Prince of Peace Lutheran (I've attached the flier so that you can include the details)
- May 19 is Pentecost Sunday - join us for worship, and if you can, wear something red
- MAY 31 Gallery Night for Arts and Science Literacy Camp (fundraiser for student tuition for families with financial need) 5-9 pm at Christ Church UCC
- We're still seeking gardening tools and volunteers for our gardens as things begin to get underway. Please be in touch with Pastor Trish if you have items to donate or are interested in participating.
- We are rearranging Fellowship Hall to better accommodate the needs of the folks we serve in ministry, so we're looking for a new home for the piano there. If you know of anyone interested in receiving a piano, please contact Pastor Trish.

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!

Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!

✧ **A Prayer as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**

~ Peace Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

O Lord, our Christ, may we have Thy mind and Thy spirit; make us instruments of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let us so love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

~ The Joy of Passing the Peace ~

One: May the peace that surpasses all understanding be with you

All: And also with you

One: Thanks be to God

✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Theme ~ "To Love and Be Loved"**

Attention and Repenting

Throughout Eastertide, we've been exploring the Bible Wisdom teachings in conversation with the American author, philosopher, and lecturer, Sam Keen. We gain fresh perspectives from scripture as we gather inspiration from his book, "To Love and Be Loved." In it, he articulates the many "elements of love" that make up the full spectrum of human affection.

This week we will consider how he describes *Attention* as "noticing and focusing" and defines *Repenting* as "forgiving and renewal." Keen's chapter on attention includes one of his most often quoted observations. He writes, "We come to love not by finding a perfect person but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly."

May all of these elements of love be woven into our worship, throughout our Congregational Meeting this morning, and as we celebrate communion together.

✧ **Gathering Hymn 451 Open My Eyes that I May See**

✧ **Opening Ourselves to God's Grace**

One: Beloved, we are called to love one another, because love is from God.

ALL: God's love is poured in us from our birth.

One: We are called to extend the love of God to all people.

ALL: God's loved is taught to us through the witness of God's faithful people.

One: We are called to proclaim God's love in all that we say and do.

ALL: In all creation, in all our relationships, may God's love be made known. AMEN.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

One: Holy One, Easter is such a wonderful season. Hope springs anew in our hearts. As the earth is being refreshed by the warmth of spring, so we have been refreshed and made new by the resurrection of the Christ. And we want to stay in this euphoria forever. But you have called us to go into the valley, to those who need to hear of your love and to feel your caring presence.

ALL: In Jesus' words of hope, he prepared his disciples to be witnesses. Far too often, we turn our backs to this message. We don't quite believe that we are capable of actually living our whole lives in your love. So, we act in ways that are often neglectful and hurtful of others. We get distracted by our own concerns and struggle to notice where you are calling us to help others. It is easier to justify our own concerns and desires than it is to witness to your transforming love. Stop us in our tracks, O God. Help us turn toward your forgiving grace. Move us in the direction of wholeness and place us again on the path of peace. Amen.

❖ Special Music

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Bob Dufford, SJ

*Refrain



Love one an - oth - er as I have loved you. Care for each
oth - er. I have cared for you. Bear each oth - er's bur - dens.
Bind each oth - er's wounds; and so you will know my re - turn.

*Verses available in accompaniment books.

Text based on John 14-16; 1 Corinthians 13. Text and music © 1967, Robert J. Dufford, SJ.
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❖ Prayer of Intention

❖ Bible Wisdom Teaching

Acts 10:44-48

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' 48 So he

ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

John 15: 9-17

9 As the Abba has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Abba's commandments and abide in that love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Abba. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Abba will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

One: May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.

All: **Thanks be to our God.**

✧ **Proclaiming the Word "Love: Repentance and Attention"**, Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Congregational meeting**

✧ **Hymn 754 *Help Us Accept Each Other***

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

✧ **Our gifts of support**

Hymn 527 *Eat this Bread*

✧ **Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread**
Communion of the People

Welcome

As we live into our future as a faith community, and as we celebrate the season in the liturgical year that celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we gather this morning to be fed by the Cup of Salvation and the Bread of Life. We remember that while we prepare the elements, it is not we who provide the communion. Just as Jesus opened the minds of the disciples to the whole of Scripture, we come to this Table to experience the Scriptures fulfilled.

We come because this table is timeless and placeless.

Here, we find the presence of our Risen Lord, the Alpha and the Omega. The one who was, and is, and is to come. We come with thirst and hunger, and we leave as witnesses to the resurrection.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of our creation, we give you thanks and praise because you have done great things for us. We gather in this place as witness to your provision. Though we were once merely individuals, you have called us together as your people. You have created a place for us in your story.

Christ of our salvation, we give you thanks and praise because you love us to the end. Not only have you gathered us as a people, but you have also given us a name – your name, the Body of Christ. You give us purpose and a mission in the world.

Holy Spirit of our redeemed life, we give you thanks and praise because you are with us in each moment and place. Through you, the presence of Christ remains active in our lives. Through you, we are able to be the presence of Christ in the world.

As the people of God, the Body of Christ, and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, we come to your Table to be nourished by you again. We pray, Holy Spirit, that you would take this simple meal of loaf and cup creating a place at this Table where we can be in communion with Jesus and one another.

✧The Lord's Prayer

**All: God, who cares for us,
The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe.**

**Let kindness, justice, and love shine in our world.
Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.
Give us the food and the hope we need for today.**

**Forgive us our wrongdoing
as we forgive the wrongs done to us.
Protect us from pride and from despair
and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.**

**In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,
while worlds come and go.**

Amen.

Accessed via <https://rainbowcathedral.wordpress.com/prayers/>

Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

We come not because of our worth or our achievements but because repentance and forgiveness of sins have been proclaimed in Jesus' name to all people. We come because it is Jesus who offers his body, broken for our brokenness. We come because it is Jesus who offers the cup, emptied for our emptiness.

Each time we come to this Table, we stand witness that Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Faithful and loving God, we are so thankful that we are part of your story. Having been nourished at your Table, we join the apostles rejoicing. We pray with hopeful thanksgiving of your continued presence with us as we continue to say "yes" to your invitation to follow you, feed your sheep, and become your witnesses not only in this place but in the world around us.

We remember with thanksgiving the ways we have witnessed your love and grace in every step of our shared life here in this place. We remember with thanksgiving the ways you have used us and this building to share your love and grace with the world.

We are a witness to your love, to your faithfulness, to your presence, to your hope, to your promises, to your grace - for all the ways you have fulfilled your promises to us and for the promises yet to be fulfilled, we bless your holy name. Amen.

✧Benediction

Friends and Beloved of Christ, you have been chosen to go into this world with the message of God's love. Bear fruit of hope and joy, peace and justice, with all that you meet. May God's peace be with you all. AMEN

Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.

✧Our Response:

Holy One, now we your servants go in peace. Your Word lives on in us.

✧Postlude *You are Holy* ~ Tippe Musicians

Communion liturgy adapted from the work of Rev. Michelle Henrichs and her book, "Come to the Table: Communion Liturgies of Invitation to Celebrate and Experience the Love of God"